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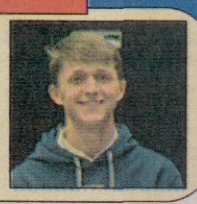
INSIDE

Members of Elba's Class of '57 gather for lunch

The Elba Clipper • Est. 1897
"Putting the 'community' in community newspaper!"

INSIDE

Elba's Jay Wilson signs golf scholarship



The Elba Clipper

Volume 130, Number 26 | 50 Cents | Elba, Alabama | Thursday, November 20, 2025 | 1 Section, 8 Pages Plus 2 Adv Inserts

Local Schools 'Make the Grade' on State Report Card

Elba City School System earns an 88 overall

The Alabama Department of Education released the 2025 State Report Card results last week, and those results showed academic growth is taking place not only overall across the state but also locally in Coffee County.

Elba City Schools made tremendous strides forward as the 2025 State Report Card showed the school system overall scored an 88 (B+). This was a 7-point increase from the 2024 report card for the school system.

Elba's overall 88 score is just above the Alabama Department of Education's overall state score of 87 for 2025.

"Elba City Schools is proud to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our students, teachers, and staff as reflected in the 2024–2025 Alabama State Report Card," said superintendent Donny Powell. "This year's results highlight the continued progress and dedication of our entire school community."

Taking a look closer at the individual schools, Elba Elementary School scored an 89 this year on its report card. That is a 2-point increase from last year's 87 and a 6-point increase from the 83 scored in 2023.

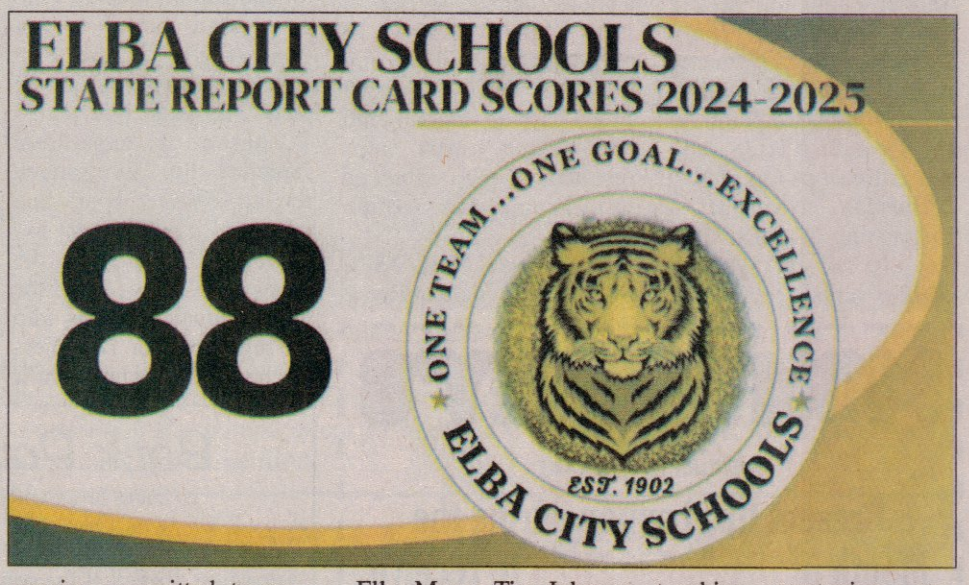
As for Elba High School, last year's 69 was a disappointment for all, but the administrators, faculty and students made sure to put that behind them. With an 8-point increase from last year, Elba High School scored a 77 on its 2025 report card.

This year's score of 77 also is one point above the 76 scored in 2023.

"Our students have worked hard to meet high expectations and continue showing strong growth in academics, attendance, and readiness for future success," Powell said. "Our teachers and staff have gone above and beyond to create engaging classrooms where every child is challenged and supported. Together, we are proving that excellence happens every day in Elba!"

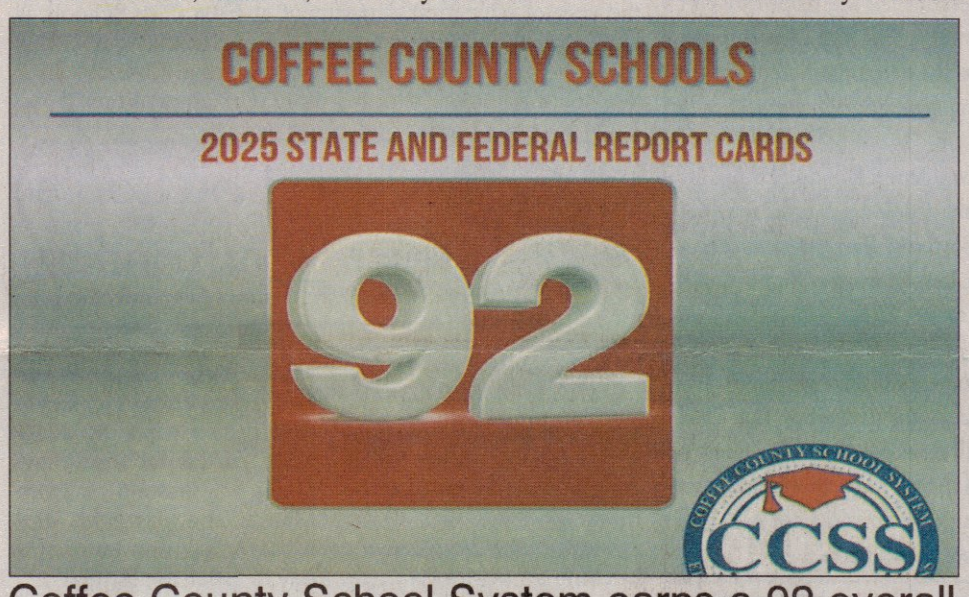
Superintendent Powell further extended heartfelt thanks to the parents, families, and community partners whose support helped make these achievements possible.

"Your encouragement and involvement are vital to the success of our schools," he said. "Elba City Schools remains committed to providing high-quality education for all students and to building on this success as we move forward. Congratulations to our entire Tiger family—your hard work and teamwork truly make us proud!"



Elba Mayor Tim Johnson also noted the positive achievements being made by Elba City Schools as he too congratulated the school system on this year's successes with its report card results.

"Improvements like these often come from focused teaching strategies, student support programs, and strong leadership," he said. "It's a great reminder of how collective effort can raise the bar for education, and the City of Elba extends a big congratulations to the Elba School System."



Coffee County School System earns a 92 overall

When the Alabama Department of Education released the 2025 Report Cards last week, the administration, faculty, and students of the Coffee County School System had plenty to cheer about as the school system scored an overall score of 92 (A).

Coffee County's 92 is 5-points above the overall Alabama Department of Education score of 87, which accounts for all school systems across Alabama. The score of 92 also is 2-points higher than Coffee County's 2024 overall report card score of 90.

"Earning an 'A' on both the state and federal report cards for the second consecutive year is a remarkable accomplishment for the Coffee County School System," said superintendent Kelly Cobb. "Even more encouraging is the consistent growth across all measurable areas at every school."

She said this achievement reflects the exceptional dedication and excellence the students and teachers demonstrate each day.

"Their commitment to our mission to Educate, Elevate, and Empower continues to strengthen our schools and set a standard of excellence that impacts every school and community we serve," Cobb said.

The top achieving school in the county system this year was Kinston School, which scored a remarkable 97 on its 2025 report card, a 5-point increase from last year's score of 92.

See GRADE, Page 5

Tim Hudson elected chairman of Elba W&E Board

The Elba Water and Electric Board held a special organizational meeting Monday evening, Nov. 10, and board member Tim Hudson was elected to serve as chairman of the board for this administration.

A motion was made by board member Christy Laramore with a second from board member Johnathan Lockett to elect Hudson as chairman. The motion passed with no opposition.

Laramore elected to serve as vice chairman of the board while Mayor Tim Johnson was appointed to serve as superintendent of the Elba Water and Electric Board.

Sandra Berry will serve as secretary for the board.

The board appointed Johnson and Hudson to be the Elba Water and Electric representatives on the PowerSouth Energy Cooperative board.

Also, Johnson, Hudson, and Laramore were approved by resolution to be the signatories for Elba Water and Electric Board bank accounts.

Superintendent Johnson noted the board has two vacancies to fill.

Carlos Magwood's term on the board expired at the end of October, and that seat remains unfilled. Prior to last week's organizational meeting, board member Julie Holley tendered her resignation from the board as well.

The regular November meeting for the Elba Water and Electric Board will be Monday, Nov. 24, following the Elba City Council meeting at Elba City Hall. Meetings are open to the public to attend.

Appearing before Judge Jeff Kelley

Mote sentenced in theft case

A theft of property case from early 2024 concluded Wednesday, Nov. 12, when Shelby Mote appeared in the 12th Judicial Circuit Court of Coffee County for her sentencing hearing.

Shelby Mote

District Attorney James Tarbox said Mote entered a guilty plea in August of this year for one count of theft of property – first degree. She appeared before Judge Jeff Kelley last week for sentencing.

"The evidence collected in the investigation of the case showed that Defendant Mote was employed by a local accounting office where she was assigned to handle the bookkeeping and payroll for the victim's business," Tarbox said. "Over a multi-year period, Defendant Mote engaged in

See THEFT, Page 3

During Coffee County Board of Education meeting

McWaters elected to continue as board chairman

The Coffee County Board of Education received a long-awaited presentation Thursday evening, Nov. 6, during the regular monthly board meeting as Ben McKee with LathanMcKee Architects discussed plans underway for a new Operations Center and Bus Shop for the county school system.

McKee said this new facility would house the school systems IT department as part of the operations center as well as a new bus shop. Further, he said the complex would include a large training room, offices for administration, and the alternative school.

The bus operations center would have three working bays while providing room for growth. There would be a shipping and loading dock, a tire storage area, parts area, and more.

Following McKee's presentation, board members noted their excitement to see this plan come together as the architects continue working to move it forward.

Also, during the meeting, board members approved a resolution naming Ramond James as the financing team and approving the reimbursement resolution for an upcoming bond issue.

Matt Adams with Ramond James addressed the board and said he, superintendent Kelly Cobb, and chief financial officer Shannon Odom had met several times prior to the board meeting to discuss numbers on financing options for system-wide capital projects the school system would like to see accomplished.

Adams presented numbers for a $15 million bond on a 20-Year Repayment Scenario and a 25-Year Repayment Scenario. The bonds would be issued at a fixed rate when the financing time comes, according to Adams.

"We are still in a very attractive rate period," Adams said.

The motion to name Ra-

See CCBOE, Page 3

News Brief:

A two-vehicle crash Friday, Nov. 14, at approximately 4:01 p.m., claimed the life of an Enterprise man.

Vernon J. Rathbone, age 79, was fatally injured when the 2012 Kia Rio he was driving collided head-on with the 2023 Chevrolet Trailblazer begin driven by Debra L. Bailey, age 71, of New Brockton.

Rathbone was pronounced deceased at the scene. Bailey was also injured and transported to Southeast Health in Dothan for medical treatment.

The crash occurred on Alabama Hwy. 51 near the six-mile marker, approximately four miles north of New Brockton, in Coffee County. Alabama State Troopers investigated the accident.

TOYS FOR TOTS... The Coffee County Sheriff's Office and Enterprise Police Department participated in a Christmas season toy drive for Toys for Tots last Saturday, Nov. 15, at Ollie's in Enterprise. The two law enforcement organizations loaded their vehicles with toys purchased and donated by Ollie's shoppers to help create a very merry Christmas this year for youngsters serviced by Toys for Tots. Above, Coffee County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Michael Hines and Deputy Pat Welch stand in front of one of their trucks loaded with donated toys just after 12 noon last Saturday.

Area Happenings

Beacon of Hope will present Rhythm & Smiles Pt. 2 on Friday, Nov. 21, at the Elba Theatre, located at 231 Court Ave., Elba, Ala. This is a free event that will be from 5-9 p.m. to include an evening of live music, food, facepainting, and more. Come enjoy!

The Elba Lions Club will meet Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 6 p.m., at the Elba Senior Center. The club will recognize Perry Stinson with a Service Award for his longevity with the club. There will be a guest speaker attending. All members are encouraged to attend.

Notice:

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday next week, The Elba Clipper will have a special deadline for the Thursday, Nov. 27, edition.

All advertising and news will be due to the office by 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 24th. The paper will be printed Monday night.

The office will close at 12 noon Wednesday, Nov. 26, and be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, for Thanksgiving to allow our staff to spend time with their families.

EDITORIAL

Elba Police Report

This report reflects activity for the Elba Police Department from Monday, Nov. 10 through Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025, as reported to and dispatched from the Coffee County 911 Dispatch Center –

Monday, Nov. 10 – Animal complaint at 1570 Powell Circle, Elba (8:56 am); Animal complaint at 420 Adkinson Ave., Elba (9:24 am); Animal complaint at 1570 Powell Circle (10:20 am); Animal complaint at 923 Roosevelt Dr. (1:31 pm); Animal complaint at 211 Plant Ave.(4:42 pm); Suspicious circumstances at 213 Taylor Ave. (6:43 pm); Noise complaint at 111 Deal St. (11:38 pm). No traffic stops reported.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 – Trespassing at 1018 MLK Dr. (10:48 am); Motor vehicle crash at HWY 141/HWY 84 (11:18 am); Suspicious person at Reese Ave/Collins St. (1:53 pm). Twenty-four traffic stops resulted in five verbal warnings, ten citations issued, seven written warnings and two arrests.

Wednesday, Nov. 12 – Suspicious circumstances at 585 E. Davis St. (3:47 am); Suspicious circumstances at Brunson Mini storage (4:01 am); Breaking and Entering of a motor vehicle at 1192 Pine Circle, Elba (6:07 am); Breaking and Entering of a motor vehicle at Beaver Dam Apartments (8:16 am); Breaking and entering of motor vehicle at 1165 Pine Circle, Elba (2:06 pm). Three traffic stops resulted in two citations issued and one written warning.

Thursday, Nov. 13 – Suspicious person at Reese Ave/Brookdale St. (11:07 am); Stolen vehicle at 1237 Jones Circle (10:24 pm). Ten traffic stops resulted in one citation issued, four written warnings, four verbal warnings and one report supplement.

Friday, Nov. 14 – Reckless driver at HWY 87/CR 242 (9:41 am). Four traffic stops resulted in two written warnings, one citation issued and one completed assignment.

Saturday, Nov. 15 – Suspicious circumstances at 721 N. Claxton Ave (11:31 pm). Two traffic stops resulted in one verbal warning and one warning issued.

Sunday, Nov. 16 – Theft of property at 829 Williams Ave (1:03 pm); Shots fired at 300 Smith Ave, Elba (2:30 pm). Two traffic stops resulted in one verbal warning and one written warning.

Locals make academic lists at Troy

Troy University is pleased to announce students who have been named to the Chancellor's List and Provost's List for Term 1 of the 2025-2026 academic year.

Full-time undergraduate students who are registered for 12 semester hours and who earn a grade point average of 4.0 qualify for the Chancellor's List. Full-time undergraduate students who are registered for 12 semester hours and who have a grade point average of at least 3.65 qualify for the Provost's List.

Local students that made the Chancellor's List include: Julie Ann Reyes and Justie Ellis, both of New Brockton.

Local students named to the Provost's List include: Katlynne Hytrek of New Brockton; Stown Hussey of Elba; Ella Nicometo and Tabitha Rumker, both of Kinston.

Back Porch Times

By Jimmy Bryan, special to The Elba Clipper

Good morning, South Alabama. Well, just a good morning everywhere. It's Fall of the year...football season, harvest time and falling leaves.

Some folks say I dwell too much on the past, or "back then." I will say that with school starting, homecoming festivities, and the smell of peanut fields, my mind does reflect to my teenage years and those young adult days when things were definitely different than today.

Now my generation is the generation the war babies are part of and were raised by the generation that had lived through the Great Depression. I feel it was the determination of the depression generation that gave my generation the opportunity to enjoy the good life.

I have no doubt that some of my generation don't think life is good, but then, those that don't think life is good may not have taken advantage of the opportunity that those who experience the depression gave them. Let's remember that the ones who went through the depression are of the generation that fought World War II as well as the Korean Conflict.

Regardless of the opinion of some, I still feel my opportunity to live the good life was provided by the generation that lived the hard life. Maybe one day I will do a comparison of living in South Alabama before 1947 and the life I now live.

"If you love'um tell'um while they can still hear and give them a hug while you can still feel the warmth."

Windy Thoughts

with Linda Hodge, Publisher

Education is taking place in Elba and Coffee County, and the release last week of the state report card verified that! The Coffee County School System scored an overall "A" with a score of 92 for all its schools combined, and Kinston School was among the top schools in the state with a big 'ole gigantic 97! These number are just tremendous, and we congratulate all the students, teachers, and adminstrators at the individual schools (Kinston, Zion Chapel, and New Brockton) and the school system as a whole. It takes a lot to consistently bring in those type numbers, and Coffee County long ago committed to making it happen...those folks are to be commended for their achievements!!

As a alum of Elba City Schools, we really want to brag on that school system and its report card results. We have been here over the years for the good and the bad, and a few years back, a lot of folks lost faith in the Elba City School System. We knew that was a mistake because we know the folks that put in the sweat and tears to educate the students at Elba City Schools. A couple of years ago, the administrators, teachers, and students of Elba City Schools decided they had heard enough of the bad comments and thoughts and made a decision to show everyone just how capable Elba is to make the grade! Ever since that decision was made, things have only gotten better. Now, Elba City Schools can celebrate a B+ on the state report card overall with a score of 88! The elementary school scorded an 89 and it knocking on the door for an "A" while the high school pulled off a remarkable 8-point jump in its score from last year to earn a 77 or C+ this time. Our guess is the high school folks plan to work even harder now to also secure at least a B next go round too! Folks...if you look back on these scores for the past four or so years, you will see that education growth is a top priority at Elba, and, as an alum, we could not be any prouder!!

On another note, the special education students at Elba City Schools scored a 100 percent in academic growth on this year's state report card! This includes students with disabilities. In hearing from others outside of the Elba school system that work in special education, those folks will quickly tell you a 100 percent academic growth for special education is almost unheard of! This just tells us the special education department at Elba City Schools is kicking rear and taking names! As one teacher said, "this is just a glimpse of the hard work we put in EVERY day." We could not agree with her more. Congratulations!!

Cuzin Lou Lou's Tales from Yonder

Editor's Note: Cuzin Lou Lou's tales are to be enjoyed as a light-hearted form of Southern expression

Thanksgiving is next week, which means the preparations are underway at the Yonder Gang's house to prepare and eat way too much food!

Cooking for Thanksgiving became a favorite for Cuzin Lou Lou many years ago as Mama's health declined, and it became harder for her to prepare the delicious foods associated with the holiday.

As Lou Lou took over the cooking duties for Thanksgiving, there were some ups and downs in getting the foods just right. One of the most challenging was creating a cornbread dressing that rivaled Mama's!

Now, those first few years were definitely not a rival. The dressing was edible, but everyone needed a big 'ole glass of tea or water to wash it down.

Lou Louo will admit...it was quite dry!

The family, even Sister, just ate it though without complaining because they realized Lou Lou was doing her best to make the holiday feel the same as all the times before when Mama was in charge in the kitchen.

After a couple of years with Lou Lou at the reigns taking lessons from Mama...she was gone, and it solely became Lou Lou's day to treat the family!

Many years have passed now, and this will be the Yonder Gang's 22nd Thanksgiving without Mama. Of course, the Gang always takes a special moment each Thanksgiving Day to give thanks for all the years they had with her, but for Lou Lou the day continues to be mostl likely the one she cherishes most each year.

It is the day she feels closest to Mama.

Anyone who ever had the opportunity to eat food prepared by Mama knows just how talented she was when it came to matters of the kitchen. For Lou Lou, cooking a scrumptious Thanksgiving meal for her family is one of the best gifts she can provide while paying tribute to Mama.

So, the plans are underway for a great day at the Yonder Gang's house, and Lou Lou is gearing up to create a meal to remember knowing that Mama is with her the whole time!

Oh yeah... over the past 20-plus years, Lou Lou has managed to learn how to cook a very tasty dressing. Last year, Sister even noted that it might be even better than Mama's!

Lou Lou is not sure about that, but it is one of the best compliments Sister could ever give her! Now, let's hope she can live up to it again this year!

We hope you enjoy your family this Thanksgiving, and remember to give thanks for all the bounties you possess!

Lou Lou and the Gang will certainly be doing that at their home!

Until next time...God Bless and Keep Smiling!

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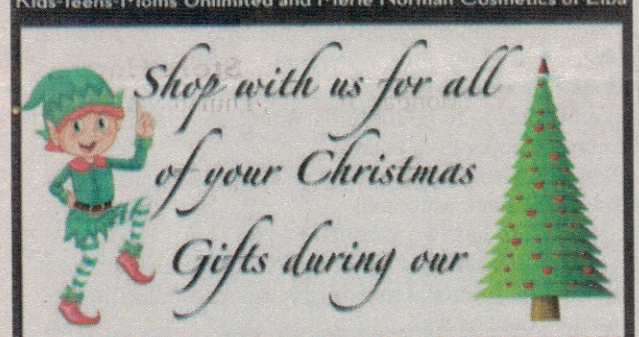
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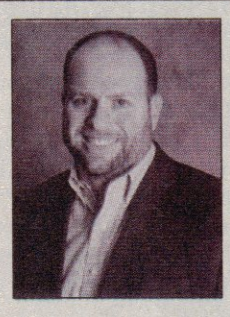
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Several members of the Elba High School Class of 1957 gathered Thursday, Nov. 13, at the home of Katrina and Kenneth Calhoun in Elba for a delightful lunch and socializing. Katrina is the daughter of class member Becky Hayes. The group said they enjoyed great hospitality while enjoying time with one another. Those present for the gathering were (from left): Fran Hudson, Becky Hayes, Jimmy Boswell, Christine Bowden, Ella Daniels, Howard Prescott, Mary Jo Boswell, Patsy Parker, Elaine Martin, and Mary Jon Nelson.

CCBOE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

mond James as the financing team on the upcoming bond issue was made by board member Brian McLeod with a second from board member Rhonda Strickland. It passed with no opposition.

Several personnel matters were approved during the meeting, upon recommendation by the superintendent.

A leave request for Laken Whigham, teacher at New Brockton Elementary, was approved for paid paternal leave beginning Dec. 1 and continuing through Feb. 13 (tentatively).

A leave request for Haylee Boothe, Pre-K auxiliary teacher at New Brockton Elementary, was approved for paid paternal leave beginning Jan. 21 and continuing through April 22 (tentatively).

The board accepted a resignation from Wendy Hobbs as the school nurse at New Brockton High School, effective Nov. 7, and also voted to hire Dannley Griswold as the new school nurse at New Brockton High.

As the November meeting is considered the board's annual meeting each year, board officers for the year were elected. Once again, Galen McWaters will serve as chairman and Mike Bailey will serve as vice-chairman.

Also, during the annual meeting, there is an item on the agenda which allows for public input. One parent chose to speak during this time.

Karen Smith, the mother of a senior at New Brockton High School, expressed her concerns regarding a personnel matter at the school.

"I have never seen the issues we've had this year," Smith said regarding the band program.

Without going into too much detail, Smith said she feels the personnel issues with the band program is causing the band and students, in general, to have things taken away from them. Further, she said her concerns are for the safety of the students.

In other business, the board approved a request to purchase portable buildings currently at the elementary school and make way for those to be moved to the middle and high schools for use.

Also, the board approved the new Vape Awareness, Education, and Prevention Policy.

The next regular Coffee County Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:30 p.m.

THEFT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

a complex scheme to steal approximately $121,000 of the victim's money."

Tarbox said testimony at the sentencing hearing showed that due to the theft of funds, the victim's payroll taxes and other mandatory withholdings were not paid and the victim incurred fines and penalties from the Internal Revenue Service and Alabama Department of Revenue.

"Mote was arrested in January 2024 and the victim continues to deal with the effects of Mote's theft to present day," Tabox said. "When offered the opportunity to speak on her own behalf, Defendant Mote declined to do so."

Judge Kelley sentenced Mote to 130 months in the Alabama Department of Corrections with a split sentence of 15 months to be served day for day. The remainder of the 115 months of the sentence was suspended for a probationary period of 115 months.

"We appreciate the court's sentence in this case," Tarbox said. "It does not repair the damage the victim in this case has incurred to include financial loss and emotional distress, but the sentence does send a message. That message is that even if you have no criminal record, if you decide to steal someone's hard earned money, you can and you will be sent to prison in the 12th Judicial Circuit."

Tarbox went on to say, "To me it was telling that Defendant Mote did not even apologize for her actions. Now she will have 15 months day for day to think about it and then almost 10 years on probation to remind her of the consequences of her actions."

Tarbox thanked the Elba Police Department and Investigator Lt. Russ Young for the hard work in investigating this matter and helping bring Mote to justice.

Notices:

• The Elba City Council will meet Monday, Nov. 24, at 5:30 p.m. The Elba Water & Electric Board meeting will follow.

• City of Elba offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Obituaries

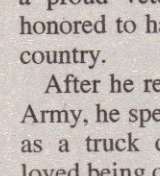
DAVID RICHARD CARTER

Mr. David Richard Carter, age 73, of Elba, Ala., died Monday, Oct. 27, 2025.

Per his wish, no formal services were held.

Survivors include his children, Jessica, Mandy, Chris, and Mary; nephew, Bridan Carter; and special friend, Walter Crook.

VERNON JAMES RATHBONE



Mr. Vernon James Rathbone, age 79, of Enterprise Ala., died unexpectedly Friday, Nov. 14 2025, due to an automobile accident.

He was born July 15, 1946 in Luther, Michigan to the late Evelyn Briggs and Gene Rathbone. Vernon was raised in Michigan and resided there until he joined the Army in 1964 where he proudly served his country for the next 22 years.

During his time in the army, Vernon served three tours in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was awarded the honorable Purple Heart for his selfless sacrifices during one of his tours. Some of his family's fondest memories are of him telling them countless stories of the pet monkey he had while serving in Vietnam. Vernon was a proud veteran and was honored to have served his country.

After he retired from the Army, he spent many years as a truck driver. Vernon loved being on the road and getting to travel the world.

He never missed an opportunity to spoil his kids and grandkids. He loved a good adventure and made sure to make time to do the things he enjoyed, always living life to the fullest.

Vernon's memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. His spontaneous personality and love for life left an indelible mark on friends and family that will carry on for generations to come.

In accordance with his wishes, no formal services will be held. The family will gather at a later date to honor his wishes in a private setting. Hayes Funeral Home of Elba is honored to serve the Rathbone family during this time.

Vernon was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents; his parents, Evelyn Briggs and Gene Rathbone; ex-wife and beloved friend, Wanda Rathbone; daughter, Debra Gentile; and great-granddaughter, Ally Reese Bowdoin.

Survivors include his daughter, Lisa Deal; son, Greg Bowers (Tammy); grandkids, Jay Bradshaw (Latasha), Joy Smith (Jeramy), Carrie Tevis (Mark), Adam Sutley (April), Rachel Foster, Tera Bowdoin (Alex), Gage Driskell, Eric Bowers (Mia), Emily Collier (Harrison); along with 22 great-grandkids, and three great great-grandkids.

JOEL KELLEY

Mr. Joel Kelley, age 50, a former resident of Elba, Ala., died Friday, Nov. 7, 2025, in Moses Lake, Washington.

A graveside service will be held Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, beginning at 2:30 p.m., at Evergreen Cemetery in Elba, with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Kayser's Chapel of Memories in Moses Lake also is assisting the Kelley family with service arrangements.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents, Max and Mary Lou Kelley; sisters, Katie Kelley, and Shirley Pouncey; and a brother, Erwin Pouncey.

Survivors include brothers, Curtis (Faye) Pouncey, and Randall (Sherry) Pouncey, all of Elba; along with other extended family members.

PATSY HINES

Ms. Patsy Hines, age 77, of Elba, Ala., died peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, at Elba Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

A proud daughter of Elba, Ms. Hines will be remembered for her grace, warmth, and enduring love for her community—qualities she embodied as the 1966 Miss Elba. Her legacy lives on in their hearts and in the community she so deeply loved.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, at Evergreen Cemetery with Derek Snellgrove officiating. Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directed the services.

She was preceded in death by her father, Cody Lee Spurlin; mother, Fay Marie Spurlin; son, Samuel Jason Colvin; and brother, Joe Spurlin.

Survivors include her devoted son, Justin Cody Hines (Brandi), Shubuta, Miss.; her loving sister, Gin Faith, Elba; and two cherished granddaughters, Kaylee Hines and Halli Flemming.

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Heath Wyrosdick, Funeral Director/Embalmer

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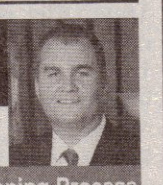

The Role of a Caregiver During the Funeral Planning Process

One thing caregivers may find themselves dealing with is helping a loved one make their funeral plans or making the plans for a loved one who has passed. Here are some ways a caregiver can support the funeral planning process.

Be supportive and patient. Making final arrangements is often a difficult task. Encourage your loved one to share their thoughts and opinions, but be patient if they need to take a break from the process.

Ask questions. If you're having a hard time getting started, one of the best things to do is ask questions. These don't need to be specific to the funeral planning process. For example, ask about things like how they met their spouse, their childhood growing up, or their favorite hobbies. These can help give you ideas for things they might (or might not) want in their service.

Bring a friend along to the funeral home. When you do go to a funeral home, consider bringing along a friend who is not close to your loved one. It can be helpful to have an objective person there while you are considering costs and options.

Set a budget. Funeral homes have lots of options to cater to many different tastes and it can be easy to get carried away with so many things to plan. Set a budget beforehand and research general expected costs for different items. And know that cutting out things doesn't mean you are shortchanging your loved one. Focus instead on how you can best celebrate your loved one's life and what was important to them.

Research burial benefits for veterans. If your loved one is a veteran, then they are likely eligible for funeral and burial benefits. They may be eligible for burial at one of the 139 national cemeteries. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides other burial benefits such as a $300 burial allowance, a VA allowance to help cover the cost of the gravesite/interment and transportation of the deceased to the final resting place. Your loved one may also be eligible to receive a burial flag and Presidential Memorial Certificate free of charge. You can visit the VA's burial benefits webpage for more details.

While planning a funeral can be an emotional process, know that honoring your loved one's final wishes can be a meaningful and beautiful experience as well.

If you would like a free funeral decisions guide, please email me at
hayesfh@hayesfuneralhome.net
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Latisha Hodge - BUSINESS MANAGER
Ricky Mularz - SPORTS

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Public Notices also are posted online at: www.alabamapublicnotices.com (no extra charge)

-- More Legal Notices on Page 5 --

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of BOBBY A. MOCK aka BOBBY ASHFORD MOCK, deceased.
Case No. PR-2025-214

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bobby A. Mock aka Bobby Ashford Mock having been granted to Gerard Hohman aka Gerard David Hohman, Personal Representative on the 3rd day of November, 2025 by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Probate Judge for Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
DONE this the 3rd day of November 2025.
Jodee R. Thompson, Probate Judge
11/6,13 & 20- pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CYNTHIA ANNE LEE, DECEASED
CAES NO. PR-2025-224

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to William Travis Lee as Administrator of the Estate of Cynthia Anne Lee, deceased on the 3rd day of November, 2025 by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
Judge of Probate
11/6,13 & 20 pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of Faith Anne Smith Robinson aka Faith Anne Robinson, deceased.
Case No. PR-2025-233

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
Letters Testamentary having been granted to Barbara Smith Broaddus Plumley aka Barbara Braoddus Plumley as Personal Representative of the Estate of Faith Anne Smith Robinson aka Faith Anne Robinson on the 3rd day of November, 2025 by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Probate Judge for Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
Done this the 3rd day of November, 2025.
Jodee R. Thompson, Probate Judge
11/6,13, & 20 - pd

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF COFFEE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage and security agreement executed by CLEVELAND BERTRAND REEVES and AMY NICHOLE REEVES, a married couple, on the 5th day of May 2021, to 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, as recorded in OFFREC Book 935, Page 470, in the office of the Probate Judge of Coffee County, Alabama; 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, as Mortgagee, by reason of such default having declared all of the indebtedness secured by said mortgage and security agreement due and payable and such default continuing, notice is hereby given that, acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and security agreement, and as authorized by Section 7-9A-604(a)(2) of the Code of Alabama of 1975 as amended, 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, as Mortgagee, will sell at public outcry, for cash to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door, in the City of Elba, Coffee County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on December 3, 2025, the following described real and personal property situated in Coffee County, Alabama, to-wit:
A lot or parcel of land located in Coffee County, Alabama and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of Section 31, T6N, R22E; thence N 87°06'29" W along an old fence 408.89 feet to the East R.O.W. of Alabama Highway #51; thence N 14°04'38" E, along the East R.O.W. of Alabama Highway #51, 571.88 feet to a point; thence N 89°59'59" E 296.91 feet to an old fence; thence S 02°45'00" W along said old fence 576.0 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said property being located in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 31, T6N, R22E and containing 4.594 acres more or less.
LESS AND EXCEPT: A lot or parcel of land located in Coffee County, Alabama and being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 31, T6N, R22E; thence N 87°06'29" W along an old fence 198.89 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue N 87°06'29" W along said old fence 210.0 feet to the East R.O.W. of Alabama Highway #51; thence N 14°04'38" E, along the East R.O.W. of Alabama Highway #51, 210.0 feet to a point; thence S 87°06'29" E 210.0 feet to a point; thence S 14°04'38" W 210.0 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said property being located in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 31, T6N, R22E and containing 1.0 acre more or less.
ALSO LESS AND EXCEPT: A lot or parcel of land located in Coffee County, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 31, T6N, R22E; thence N 02°45'00" E 372.07 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue N 02°45'00" E 203.93 feet to a point; thence S 89°59'59" W 296.91 feet to the East right of way of Alabama Highway #51; thence S 14°04'38" W, along the East right of way of Alabama Highway #51, 210.00 feet to a point; thence N 89°59'59" E 338.20 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said property being located in the SE 1/4, Section 31, T6N, R22E and containing 1.485 acres more or less.
INCLUDING a security interest in one (1) 2021 Buccaneer 16' x 82' manufactured home, Serial No. CBC052025AL; together with the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging and all fixtures now attached to and used in connection with the premises herein described.
This property will be sold on an "as is, where is" basis, subject to any easements, encumbrances, and exceptions reflected in the mortgage and those contained in the records of the office of the Judge of Probate of the county where the above-described property is situated. This property will be sold without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use and/or enjoyment and will be sold subject to the right of redemption of all parties entitled thereto.
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.
Said sale will be made subject to any existing Federal Tax Lien, if any, and/or Special Assessments, if any, which might adversely affect the title to the subject property.
Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by the above-described mortgage, and the proceeds thereof will be applied as provided by the terms of the said mortgage. This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation; contact Margery Oglesby at the phone number shown below prior to attending the sale.
Kristofor D. Sodergren
Attorney for 21st Mortgage Corporation
ROSEN HARWOOD, P.A.
2200 Jack Warner Pkwy Ste 200
P.O. Box 2727
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
(205) 344-5000
11/6,13&20-chg.

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JACQUES RENE EHLENFELDT, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA
CASE NO. : PR- 2025-212

NOTICE OF HEARING
TO: Rene V. Ehlenfeldt and to all Known and Unknown heirs at law and next of kin of JACQUES RENE EHLENFELDT who may be unknown and are not named.
You are hereby notified that PATRICIA M. EHLENFELDT has filed a Petition to probate a document purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of JACQUES RENE EHLENFELDT, deceased.
A hearing on said petition has been set for the 24th day of November, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at which time you may appear and contest the same if you see fit.
DONE AND ORDERED this 15th day of October, 2025.
JUDGE OF PROBATE
11/6, 13 & 20-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF GENEVA COUNTY ALABAMA

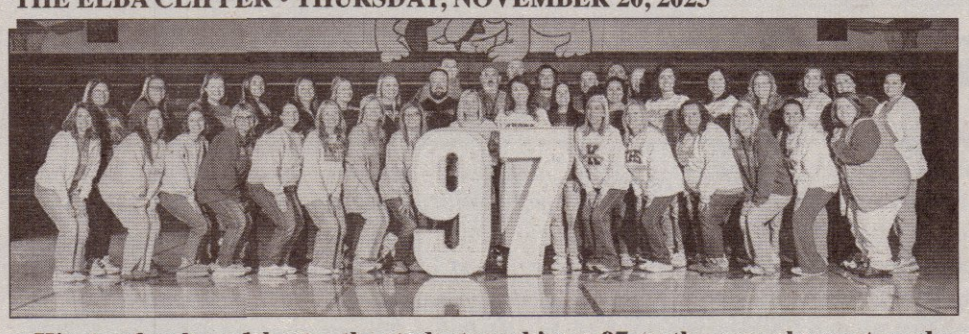
IN RE THE ESTATE OF J. EVELYON ROBINSON, SR., Deceased.
CASE NO. 25-144

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Letters of Administration of the said Deceased having been granted to Inez Robinson on the 3rd day of November, 2025 by the Honorable Toby L. Seay, Probate Judge of Geneva County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
Raley L. Wiggins
CAPELL & HOWARD, P.C.
P.O. Box 2069 (36102-2069)
150 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
11/6 , 13 & 20-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MARY DIANE TAYLOR
Deceased
Case No: PC 2025-087

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION
Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Summary of Distribution has been filed in the Probate Court of Coffee County -Elba Division on the 5th day of November 2025, for distribution of assets from the Estate of Mary Diane Taylor, deceased, and thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof, and pursuant to law, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the Estate of said decedent.
WITNESS my hand and seal this the 6th day of November, 2025.
Jodee R. Thompson
JUDGE OF PROBATE
11/20- pd



Kinston faculty celebrates the students making a 97 on the annual report card

GRADE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Kinston's 97 was the highest in school and district history, according to administrators.

Zion Chapel School scored a 90 on its 2025 report card. This was a 3-point drop from last year's score of 93, but the school kept its "A" ranking.

New Brockton Schools were broken down into scored for the elementary, middle and high schools.

New Brockton Elementary School achieved an "A" on this year's report card scoring a 90. Last year, the school earned an 89 on its report card.

New Brockton Middle School achieved a 6-point jump this year scoring an 84 on its 2025 report card. Last year, the school scored a 78.

New Brockton High School scored an 87 on its 2025 report card. This was a 4-point increase from the 2024 score of 83.

"I am so proud of every school within the district!" Cobb said.

The Pilot International Brain Power Walk or End Alzheimer's Walk is an annual walk that happens around the world in every Pilot Club Community on the first Saturday of each October. It is a unity of purpose demonstration to bring awareness of the Pilot Club and its mission. Additionally, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Members of the Luncheon Pilot Club of Enterprise walked last month at Johnny Henderson Park in Enterprise for the International Brain Power Walk and for Breast Cancer Awareness. Members participating in the walk were, from left: Jane Baxley, Fran Walters, Linda Peterson, Gina Oates, Julie Mills, Debbie Godfrey, Debbie Shelton, Leslie Adams, Bonnie Gilmore, and Caroline Gebhart.

LEGAL NOTICES: More on Page 4

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROBERT MARTIN MOORE, DECEASED CASE NO. PR-2025-229

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
Letters of Administration on Estate of Conrad Robert Matthews, deceased having been granted to Charles Roy Harrison, Personal Representative, on the 10th day of November, 2025, by the Probate Judge, Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
Hon. Jodee R. Thompson
Probate Judge, Coffee County, Alabama
Richard W. Whittaker, Attorney
300 E. Lee Street
Enterprise, AL 36330
(334) 393-5146
11/13, 20 & 27 pd

PROBATE COURT COFFEE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: PERCY LAMAR COLEMAN, JR. Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 10th day of November, 2025, by the Hon. Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of the Probate Court of Coffee County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
STEVEN ALECK HARRIS, the Personal Representative of the Estate of PERCY LAMAR COLEMAN, JR, deceased. Case No. PR-2025-174
PERCY LAMAR COLEMAN, JR
JUDGE OF PROBATE
Attorney
STEVEN ALECK HARRIS
215 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd, Suite 1000
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 201-1789
11/13,20&27-pd.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CLARA OLINDA TESSIER, Deceased.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA Case No.: PR-2025-227

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Letters Testamentary of deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 5th day of November, 2025, by the Hon. Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of the Probate Court of Coffee County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
Alfred F. Livaudais, Jr.
Attorney for Lawerence A. Tessier
Personal Representative
Urech & Livaudais, P.C.
P.O. Drawer 70
Daleville, AL 36322
(334) 598-4455
daleattyal@gmail.com
11/13, 20 & 27 PD

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF FLOYD PAUL SWICK Deceased. Case No.: 25-0043

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
Letters Testamentary were granted to MARGARET BAXLEY on the 5th day of November, 2025. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
MARGARET BAXLEY
Personal Representative
David F. Holmes, Attorney
P.O. Box 1180
Slocomb, AL 36375
334-886-3123
11/13, 20 & 27 pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CONRAD ROBERT MATHEWS DECEASED CASE NO. PR-2025-226

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
Letters of Administration with will Attached of Conrad Robert Mathews, deceased, having been granted to Amanda Kay Mathews, Personal Representative, on the 5th day of November, 2025, by the Probate Judge, Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
/s/ Jodee R. Thompson
Hon. Jodee R. Thompson
Probate Judge, Coffee County, Alabama
Richard W. Whittaker, Attorney
300 E. Lee Street
Enterprise, AL 36330
(334) 393-5146
11/13, 20 & 27-pd.

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN RE: THE MATTER OF: I.W.O, a minor. CASE NO.: JU-2025-000292.01

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE TO: JOHN OETMAN JR., Respondent/Father of I.W.O., a minor whose date of birth is February 15, 2014, and whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights heretofore filed by Petitioner, Sophia Dawkins, within fourteen (14) days after the last publication, or thereafter, a judgment by default may be rendered against you in JU-2025-000292.01, Juvenile Court of Coffee County (Enterprise Division), Alabama.
Done and dated on this the 13th day of November 2025.
/s/Amy Reeves
Amy Reeves
Clerk of the Court
11/20,27, 12/4, & 11-chg.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of Alice Faye Smith, Deceased Case No: 25-154

NOTICE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS
Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Summary Distribution has been filed by Jason Smith, on the 13th day of November, 2025, and that 30 days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to law the Court shall be requested to enter and order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.
Done this 13 day of November, 2025.
Toby L. Seay,
Judge of Probate
/s/ Alfred J. Danner
Attorney for Petitioner
Alfred J. Danner
308 E. Campbell Ave.
Geneva, Alabama 36340
11/20-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EMMA J. SORRELLS, DECEASED,

RONALD R. SORRELLS, PETITIONER.

CASE NO. 25-151

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Emma J. Sorrells, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned on the 12th day of November, 2025, by Toby L. Seay, the Judge of the Probate Court of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
/s/ Ronald R. Sorrells
Ronald R. Sorrells
Personal Representative
Attorney for Estate:
Jeffery D. Hatcher
P.O. Box 189
Geneva, Alabama 36340
11/20, 27 & 12/4 pd

Notice to Contractors Federal Aid Project No. HSIP-0012(589) COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

Sealed bids will be received by the Director of Transportation at the office of the Alabama Department of Transportation, Montgomery, Alabama until 10:00 AM on December 05, 2025 and at that time publicly opened for constructing the Roadway/Intersection Safety Improvements (Reduced Intersection Conflict, Grading, Drainage, and Pavement) on SR-12 (US-84) at SR-141 southwest of Elba. Length 0.539 mi.
The total amount of uncompleted work under contract to a contractor must not exceed the amount of his or her qualification certificate.
The Entire Project Shall Be Completed In Sixty (60) Working Days.
A Bidding Proposal may be purchased for $5.00. Plans may be purchased for $28.00 per set. Plans and Proposals are available at the Alabama Department of Transportation, 1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Room E-108, Montgomery, AL 36110. Checks should be made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation. Plans and Proposals will be mailed only upon receipt of remittance. No refunds will be made.
Minimum wage rates for this project have been predetermined by the Secretary of Labor and are set forth in the advertised specifications. This project is subject to the contract work hours and Safety Standards Act and its implementing regulations.
Cashier's check or bid bond for 5% of bid (maximum - $50,000.00) made payable to the Alabama Department of Transportation must accompany each bid as evidence of good faith.
The bracket range is shown only to provide general financial information to contractors and bonding companies concerning the project's complexity and size. This Bracket should not be used in preparing a bid, nor will this bracket have any bearing on the decision to award this contract.
The Bracket Estimate On This Project Is From $1,149,158 To $1,404,527 .
The proposed work shall be performed in conformity with the rules and regulations for carrying out the Federal Highway Act.
Plans and Specifications are on file in Room E-108 of the Alabama Department of Transportation at Montgomery, Alabama 36110.
In accordance with the rules and regulations of The Alabama Department of Transportation, proposals will be issued only to prequalified contractors or their authorized representatives, upon requests that are received before 10 AM., on the day previous to the day of opening of bids.
The bidder's proposal must be submitted on the complete original proposal furnished him or her by the Alabama Department of Transportation.
The Alabama Department of Transportation, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000D TO 2000D-4 and Title 49 code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of The Secretary, Part 21, nondiscrimination in federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award.
The right to reject any or all bids is reserved.
JOHN R. COOPER
Transportation Director
11/20,27&12/4-chg

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF ROY DANIEL LINDSEY, deceased. CASE NO: PR-2025-230

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 17th day of November, 2025, by the Honorable Jodee Thompson, Judge of the Probate Court of Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
Witness my hand this the 17th day of November, 2025.
/s/ Roy Michael Lindsey
Person Representative
/s/ Matt Brunson
Attorney for Petitioner
11/20,27&12/4-pd.

ELBA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

FUND BALANCE OCTOBER 1, 2024	**4,759,296.52**
REVENUES:	
STATE REVENUES	6,917,945.59
FEDERAL REVENUES	1,135,263.28
LOCAL REVENUES	2,539,462.99
OTHER REVEUES	166,202.73
TOTAL REVENUES	**10,758,874.59**
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:	
FUND TRANSFERS IN	40,364.00
OTHER SOURCES	0.00
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	**40,364.00**
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	**10,799,238.59**
EXPENDITURES:	
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	5,020,057.61
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES	2,016,308.83
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	1,469,135.43
AUXILIARY SERVICES	870,849.31
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	835,220.21
CAPITAL OUTLAY	940,296.15
DEBT SERVICES:	
PRINCIPAL	127,661.54
INTEREST	30,254.71
OTHER DEBT SERVICES	
OTHER EXPENDITURES	387,210.14
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**11,696,993.93**
OTHER FUND USES:	
FUND TRANSFERS OUT	40,364.00
OTHER FUND USES	0.00
TOTAL OTHER FUND USES	**40,364.00**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FUND USES	**11,737,357.93**
ENDING FUND BALANCE SEPTEMBER 30, 2025	**3,821,177.18**

SPORTS NEWS

Views From The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Our youngest grandson Cannon has become a devote Troy Trojan fan and will keep his perfect attendance intact this week when the Trojans close out their home schedule. He always wants to know when they are going to Troy, and when he visits wants me to pull up the Troy band on YouTube. You may cheer for Alabama or Auburn, but for Cannon it is 'Go Trojans!'

For what it is worth….

*** ***I was filing away my football stat sheets*** from the season last week and while the Elba Tigers may have posted a 3-8 record and made an early exit from the playoffs, after looking at the stats it was obvious there were a lot of positives the Tigers could take from the season and use to get better during the off-season. On offense, the Tigers rushed for over 2,000 yards and passed for over 1,000 yards, not an easy feat for any 1A team, much less one that only won three games. Tyceson Davis rushed for 1,031 yards and 14 touchdowns to lead the offensive attack, while Cassidy Carpenter rushed for 420 yards and seven touchdowns, and the trio of Reggie Gilbert, Easton McKelvy and Laquatos Edwards combined to rush for 592 yards and six td's. Gilbert was also a force at receiver, where he had 24 catches for 341 yards and four more touchdowns, giving him a total of 581 yards and 8 touchdowns both rushing and receiving. Ky'Avian Stoudemire was a quiet second in receptions with 12 catches for 206 yards, with Levi Martin pulling in 9 catches for 113 yards. Easton McKelvy stepped into the role as starting quarterback early in the season and had a solid year as the Tiger signal-caller as he completed 71 of 121 passes, with only six interceptions, for 841 yards and six touchdowns, with Powell Bane completing 12 of 27 passes for 173 yards, for a combination of 1,014 yards. Not bad stats!

For a high school football team that only dressed out twenty-two players in its playoff opener and only had two seniors on its roster there are obviously a lot of stories to share about players. One player that I paid particular attention to was junior lineman Victor Wall. Victor moved to Elba a few years back with his two brothers and one sister and rode the school bus I drove. The small family of young children got my attention due to their size, and of course their share of the noise that came from the back of the bus. I didn't make it to many junior high games over the next two years and didn't know if he got to play, but always saw Victor with his football jersey on when he got on the bus on Friday mornings. I remember after one game early in the season I called Coach Cooper and asked him if that was the Victor Wall that rode my bus that got in the game at center. He didn't know Victor was a bus rider, but laughed and said the young man was a hard worker and deserved the opportunity to break into the line-up. Well, his first action grew into his first start, and after that he never left the line despite playing the last half of the year with his left arm in a cast. I have since changed bus routes and no longer take Victor or his siblings to school, but kept an eye on my former rider all season, and believe while every team has its stars, it is the Victor Walls of the world that are true teammates and always make a difference in a team's success.

*** ***The second round*** of the high school football playoffs is now in the books and it was another eye-opening week in all seven classifications. The biggest news in the 7A ranks were a pair of blowouts as Auburn blanked Daphne 40-0 and Thompson buried Mary Montgomery 54-0, while in 6A, Pike Road continued its late-season surge with a 28-6 win over Bessemer City and Benjamin Russell and its transfers from Montgomery got past Theodore 21-14; in 5A, what is left of Catholic Montgomery advanced with a 38-15 win over Shelby County and Andalusia was eliminated in a 21-2 road loss to Central Clay County; in 4A, Bullock County won its second playoff game ever over Mobile Christian 21-0 and W.S. Neal had to make the folks in Opp feel even worse about last week's game as it blasted American Christian 35-7; in 3A, Glenwood kept on rolling with a 40-7 win over Trinity and Fyffe was shut-out for the first time since way back in 1999 in a stunning 36-0 loss to Piedmont; in 2A, defending state champ Reeltown spotted Cottonwood a 22-6 second quarter lead and came roaring back to claim a 63-28 win and Luverne again proved it could do more than just score points in a 29-0 win over G.W. Long; in 1A, McKenzie coasted past Autauga Academy 52-20 and Leroy thumped Linden 40-22 to set up a clash of unbeaten.

The third round of the AHSAA football playoffs will kick off this week and while looking at the brackets I noticed the schedules had been really good to a number of teams. In 1A, McKenzie will be at home for the third straight week when it hosts Leroy, while Addison and Hubbertville will also be at home for the third straight week; in 2A, Providence Christian will be at home for the first time in three weeks after road wins over Clarke County and Loachapoka, while Coosa Christian and Tuscaloosa will be back at home for the third straight week; in 3A, Southside, of Selma, will be at home for the third straight week, as will Montgomery Academy, Piedmont and Mars Hill; in 4A, St. Michael's and Plainview will be at home for the third straight week; in 5A, Scottsboro and Moody will stay at home for the third straight week; in 6A, Benjamin Russell, Pike Road, Saraland and Clay-Chalkville will all be back at home for the third straight week. Up in 7A, no teams have been able to play all its playoff games at home. I guess I pay attention to where the games are played because back in the 'Mack Wood Era' it seemed like we always had to travel, no matter what round!

*** ***Ye Ole Polish Prognosticator*** hit on seven of his ten playoff picks last week as he continued on a late-season surge and while at the office stated even though most of the area teams are now in the gym getting ready for basketball, there are a number of area games this week that should be classics for all football fans. He didn't say where he might go Friday night, but did check the weather forecast on the computer before he left this week's picks. Here goes….

Leroy 29 McKenzie 27
Lanett 22 Luverne 16
Reeltown 35 Providence Ch. 10
Maplesville 42 Sou. Choctaw 6
Glenwood 24 Southside Selma 18
St. Michaels 41 Bullock County 0
Jackson 28 W.S. Neal 7
Williamson 36 Catholic Montgomery 14
Saraland 31 Pike Road 21
Auburn 24 Opelika 21
Central PC 17 Thompson 15
Piedmont 28 Gordo 17

WILSON SIGNS WITH COLUMBUS STATE .... Elba Tiger golf standout and multi-sports student-athlete Jay Wilson signed a scholarship last week to continue his career at Columbus State University. Pictured at the signing are (l-r) Elba Tiger golf coach Mark Wicker, Josh Wilson, Jay Wilson, Jill Wilson and John Martin Wilson.

Wilson to tee it up at Columbus State

Elba Tiger golf standout Jay Wilson made it official last week when he signed a scholarship to continue his career at Columbus State University, in Columbus, Georgia, during a ceremony in front of friends and family at Elba High School.

Wilson is the two-time defending state high school golf champion in Alabama, was a member of the school's second state team championship, and has won numerous tournaments across the nation during his illustrious career.

"I chose Columbus State because it is in a great city, is close to home and close to Auburn," said Wilson, "and of course I felt it was the best place for me to go to college. I like the coaches and the other members of the team, and think it will be a great experience both athletically and academically. It was great to sign and get that chapter over with. Now it's time to get on the basketball court and try to help Elba win ballgames."

Wilson stated that while his brother John Martin was also a standout golfer, he didn't really get serious about the sport until the seventh grade.

"I messed around on the course with my Dad, my brother and some of our friends," added Wilson, "but never really thought about doing what it would take to be really good. The fact my brother played and had success did help me make my decision to play, but I have always liked sports and still play both baseball and basketball. I love golf and always will, but baseball is a close second, and I also enjoy basketball."

"Jay is a fantastic golfer," said Elba Tiger golf coach Mark Wicker "but is an even better person and will be successful in all he does. He has had quite a career here at Elba High in golf, but also has been a standout in basketball and baseball, as well as in the classroom. With his experience there is no doubt he will be successful at Columbus State."

Columbus State University is an NCAA Division 2 member and supports athletic teams in 13 sports.

"Golf is still fun to me, no matter where I play or who I play against," said Wilson. "What can be better than being outside spending time on the golf course? I wouldn't have it any other way! I know I grew up on a nine-hole course, but that also made it more fun growing up since I could go out and play nine holes anytime I wanted and not have to worry about getting a tee time, or being slowed down. It was the perfect place to grow up in the sport."

The Cougar golf team has been a national power for decades and has made a total of 32 NCAA national championship appearances, winning six national titles. The team has also won seven Peach Belt Conference championships, and has had sixty golfers named All-American.

The 2025-2026 team includes one freshman, five sophomores, one junior and four seniors. The senior quarter includes two golfers from Australia and one from South Africa.

"In college we will play in a fall season and a spring season," added Wilson, "and when I get there it will help me settle in and get used to being a college golfer. I am ready to get started in college and be a part of a team. When you travel and compete it can get lonely at times, but being a member of a team is fun."

As one of the nation's top junior golfers the past two years, Wilson has competed against many other golfers from across the nation, and other countries, and has worked to develop and improve his overall game.

"I'm not the longest hitter around," admitted Wilson, "but I can get it out there pretty good. I have to say my irons are the strength of my game. Growing up at the Elba Country Club we did not have a driving range and about all you could really work on was your irons. When I play on a longer course the key is being able to hit fairways and greens, and you have to have faith in your irons when you aren't able to just pull out a wedge. Putting definitely isn't a strength right now, but it too is something I can work on here on our course, and improve on."

While being a multi-sport athlete is common in high school, Wilson stated the key to being successful in multiple sports is time management, and hard work.

"When you play more than one sport you have to make sure you practice all sports as equally as possible," added Wilson. "A baseball swing and a golf swing aren't exactly a good fit. So, you have to put in some extra time making sure one doesn't have a negative impact on the other. I encourage everyone that enjoys sports to play every sport they want to. If you make a decision to just play one sport I high school, there will come a time later on when you will wish you had played another sport. The key to golf, like any sport, is to have fun and enjoy it. If you play well you may get rewarded, and if not you simply keep working. I have played a lot of golf over the years and always have high expectations, but don't feel extra pressure because I get to have fun and play a sport I love. If you can't have fun and can't enjoy it you can get burned out and that could lead to giving it up."

"I am proud of what I have accomplished on the golf course and look forward to continuing to play in college," said Wilson. "However, I am still going to have fun and not feel pressure from others, or put any on myself. I am looking forward to basketball season and then moving on to golf and baseball. I hope we win state in all three sports and it would be really great to win three straight individual titles, but there is no pressure, just the chance to have fun."

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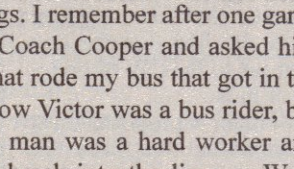

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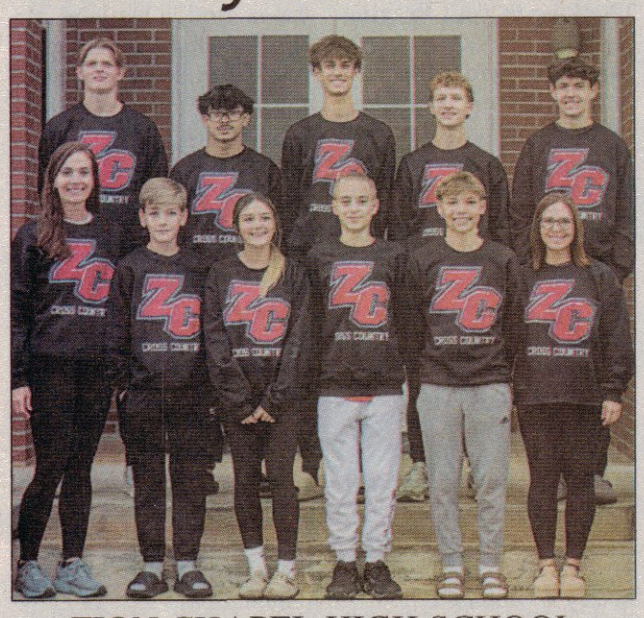
Elba, Alabama Chamber of Commerce

SPORTS NEWS

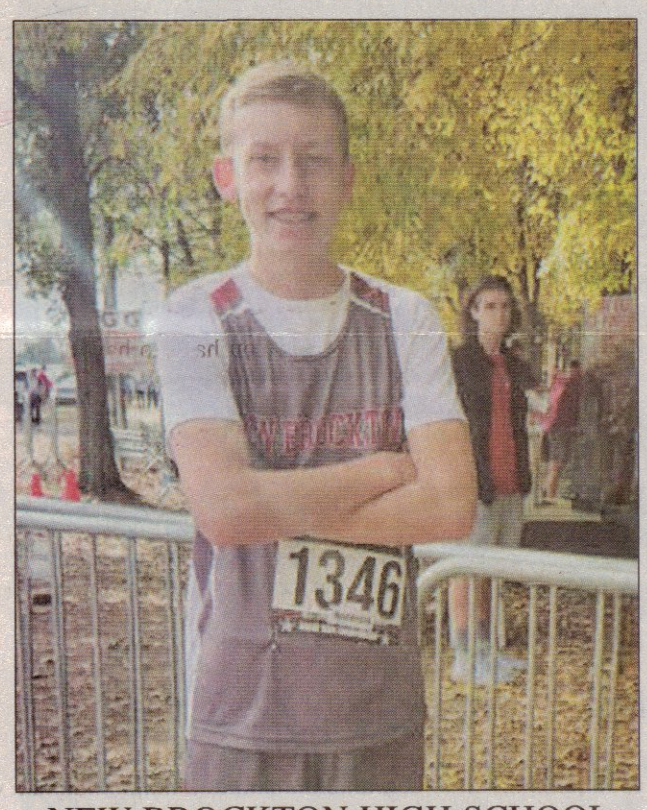
At State Cross-Country meet

County runners hit the trail



ZION CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL

KINSTON HIGH SCHOOL



NEW BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Alabama High School Athletic Association held its 70th Cross Country State Championships on Saturday, Nov. 8, on the Jesse Owens Course at the Oakville Indian Mounds State Park, in Moulton, with over 2,000 student-athletes from across the state competing in six classifications.

Included among the state's top runners that competed were five female runners from Kinston, one male runner from New Brockton, and eight male runners and one female runner from Zion Chapel.

Kinston runners that represented the Bulldogs and competed in Class 1A-2A were freshman Makayla Bond, seventh-grader Ensley Kinsaul, eighth-grader Harper Morris, seventh-grader Benelli Smith and senior Lauren Norris.

New Brockton freshman Elijah Tredinnick represented the Gamecocks in Class 4A.

Zion Chapel runners that represented the Rebels were seventh-grader Brady Bassett, senior Joeb Bradley, junior Ben Hobbs, junior Gayvn Moore, junior Bert Oggs, junior Tucker Powell, eighth-grader Dawson Scarbrough, seventh-grader Noah Taylor and eighth-grader Sara Grace Taylor.

A total of 147 runners competed in the Class 1A-2A Girls 5000 Meter, with Reese Swidecki, of Cold Springs, winning the event with a time of 19:20.0. Kinston's Lauren Norris placed 60th with a time of 24:20.26, while teammates Harper Morris placed 78th with a time of 24:45.40, Makayla Bond placed 83rd with a time of 24:50.78 and Benelli Smith placed 111th with a time of 26:27.48. Zion Chapel's Sara Grace Taylor placed 105th with a time of 26:11.87.

A total of 169 runners competed in the Class 1A-2A Boys 5000 Meter, with David Layfield, of Horseshoe Bend, winning the event with a time of 16:15.24. Zion Chapel's Bert Oggs placed 17th with a time of 18:11.5, followed by teammates (111) Ben Hobbs 21:33.31, (116) Brady Bassett 22:04.26, (136) Noah Taylor 22:45.04, (143) Gayvn Moore 23:13.03, (147) Lawson Scarbrough 23:26.77, (157) Tucker Powell 24:1564, and (168) Joeb Bradley, who ran despite a football injury, with a time of 35:05.27.

A total of 170 runners competed in the Class 4A Boys 5000 Meter, with Bayley Kendrick, of DAR, winning the event with a time of 15:45.31. New Brockton's Elijah Tredinnick placed 157th with a time of 22:39.47.

In team competition, Kinston placed 13th in Class 1A-2A girls, and Zion Chapel placed 15th in Class 1A-2A boys.

COLE SHEHEE... Elba's Cole Shehee recently competed at the Alabama High School Rodeo Association's 'Southeast Showdown' in Perry, Georgia, and placed in the Top 10 in Tie-Down Roping. Rodeo competitors from eleven states competed in the annual event in multiple events and included preliminary and championship competition.

Junior Tigers rally past Opp 25-20

The Elba Tigers closed the game on an 11-0 run to claim an exciting 25-20 road win over the Opp Middle School Bobcats, last Monday night, in Opp.

Elba's shooting touch was as cold as the air outside the Bobcat gym in the first quarter as the Tigers fell behind 8-3, and while a 3-pointer by Cooper Holley did spark a second quarter rally, the Tigers were still behind 12-10 at intermission. Opp regained command in the third quarter to up its advantage to 19-12 heading into the final stanza. However, RJ Melton and Jayse Williams scored four points, apiece, and Carter Mitchell drained a long 3-pointer as the Tigers outscored the Bobcats 13-1 in the fourth quarter to pull off the 25-20 comeback win.

Jayse Williams scored 9 points to lead Elba, while also scoring for the Tigers were RJ Melton 6, Jacquez Hill 4, Cooper Holley 3 and Carter Mitchell 3. Ty'wan Edwards scored 6 points to lead Opp.

Prep playoffs enter round three

McKenzie High School head football coach Brian Bradford saw his Class 1A Tigers (12-0) advance to the third round of the AHSAA state playoffs with a 52-20 win over Autauga Academy Friday night.

His talented team, led by talented senior quarterback Quay Jackson, has scored 644 points this season while averaging 53.7 points per game. His team advances to the quarterfinals to face unbeaten Leroy (12-0) next week.

With a team loaded with talented skill players and a line up front that gives them the space to run and the time to throw, McKenzie has scored 644 points this season – averaging 53.7 points per game.

Bradford was one of 52 coaches attending last weekend's AHSAA Football Coaches' Playoff meeting at the AHSAA's Dan Washington Auditorium.

Vince Earley of WOTM TV, announced that the AHSAA TV Network/Alabama Public Television/WOTM playoff 'game of the week' on Friday, Nov. 21, will be the Class 7A semifinal battle between defending state champion Thompson (9-3) and last season's 7A state runner-up Central-Phenix City (11-1). It will kick off Friday night at Central's Garrett-Harrison Stadium at 7:08 pm (CST). The game is also a rematch from the Super 7 championship games from 2024 and 2023.

Thompson won last year's championship over Central 21-7, and the Red Devils won 21-19 in 2023. Opelika (9-3) is at Auburn (10-2) in the other semifinal game – with the winners advancing all the way to the AHSAA Super 7 Class 7A state championship game at Birmingham's Protective Stadium, Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.

The other six classifications will move into the quarterfinal round this week.

Bradford's McKenzie Tigers won the Class 1A, Region 2 title in the regular season and are one of six region champions in Class 1A advancing from the original field of 208 teams to this week's third round of the state playoffs. A total of 38 of the 52 teams advancing won region titles and have number one region seed qualifier status into the quarterfinals. In Class 3A, all teams advancing are top seeds, while seven of the eight teams in Classes 5A and 6A are number one seeds.

Also of note, the continuing debate of which is more important – high octane offenses or lockdown defenses – won't be settled anytime soon, but here are the facts....

Five of the 52 teams still competing have scored 600 or more points already this season, including Class 2A Luverne 653 - 54.4; Class 3A Southside-Selma 648 - 54.0; Class 1A McKenzie 644 - 53.7; Class 3A Mars Hill Bible 629 - 52.4; and, Class1A Hubbertville 612 - 55.6.

On the defensive side, seven teams in the field are allowing less than 10 points per game. The AHSAA leader is Class 1A Maplesville, which has allowed only 27 points in 2025 with nine shutouts this season including the last six games in a row. The Red Devils of Coach Brad Abbott have outscored those six opponents 295-0 and have allowed just two touchdowns since August. The other defensive leaders surviving to the third round in each class include: Class 1A Maplesville 27 - 2.3; Class 6A Pike Road 97 - 8.1; Class 5A Williamson 90 - 8.2; Class 2A Lanett 99 - 8.2; Class 2A Luverne 103 - 8.6; Class 3A Piedmont 110 - 9.2; Class 3A Montgomery Academy 119 - 9.9; Class 4A Anniston 121- 10.1; and, Class 7A Thompson 138 - 11.5.

AHSAA 2025 FOOTBALL STATE PLAYOFFS

Third-Round Pairings

(all games Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted)

CLASS 1A

Addison (11-1) Marion County (9-3), Guin

Hubbertville (12-0) at Wadley (11-0)

Southern Choctaw (9-3) at Maplesville (12-0)

Leroy (12-0) at McKenzie (12-0)

CLASS 2A

Pisgah (10-2) at Southeastern (10-2)

Tuscaloosa Academy (9-3) at Coosa Christian (10-2), Gadsden

Lanett (10-2) at Luverne (12-0)

Reeltown (9-3) at Providence Christian (9-3), Dothan

CLASS 3A

Geraldine (11-1) at Mars Hill Bible (12-0), Killen

Gordo (10-1) at Piedmont (12-0)

Glenwood (11-2) at Southside-Selma (12-0)

Montgomery Academy (11-1) at Bayside Academy (11-1), Daphne

CLASS 4A

Plainview (12-0) at Good Hope (10-2)

Anniston (12-0) at Deshler (11-1), Tuscumbia

W.S. Neal (9-3) at Jackson (10-2)

Bullock County (9-3) at St. Michael Catholic (13-0), Fairhope

CLASS 5A

Scottsboro (8-4) at Fairview (12-0)

Briarwood Christian (7-5) at Moody (10-2)

Central-Clay County (12-1) at Vigor (10-2), Pritchard

Williamson (12-0) at Montgomery Catholic (8-4)

CLASS 6A

Muscle Shoals (11-0) Mountain Brook (9-3

Homewood (11-1) at Clay-Chalkville (13-0)

Hueytown (6-5) at Benjamin Russell (11-1), Alexander City

Sarland (11-0) at Pike Road (10-2)

CLASS 7A

Opelika (9-3) at Auburn (10-2)

Thompson (9-3) at Central-Phenix City

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

(Basketball)

Thursday, Nov. 20

Vernon at Zion Chapel (JV-VG-VB) 4:30

Friday, Nov. 21

Mosley at New Brockton (VG) 4:30

Kinston at Geneva (JV-VG-VB) 4:30

Zion Chapel at Poplar Springs (JV-VG-VB) 4:30

Monday, Nov. 24

Ariton Thanksgiving Tournament

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Ariton Thanksgiving Tournament

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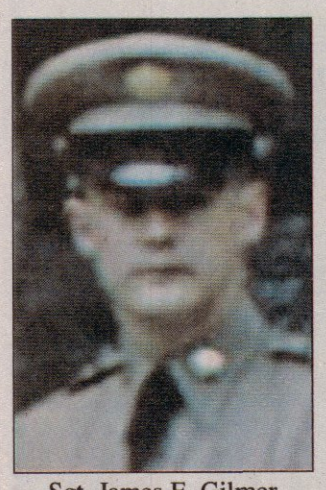
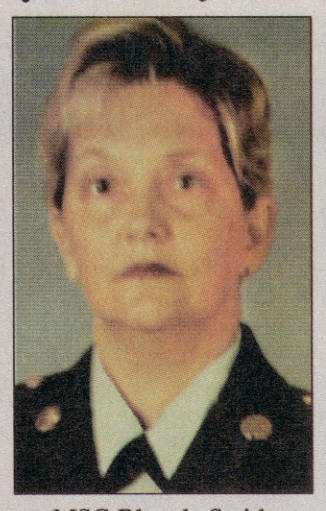
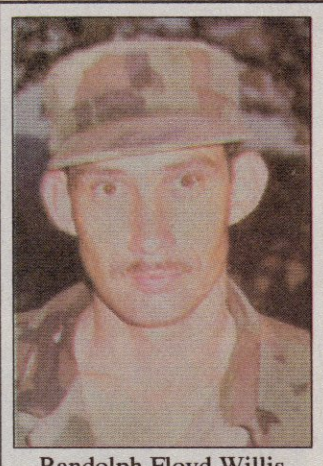


Sgt. James E. Gilmer
Army, 1st Infantry Division
Served 1952 - 1957



MSG Rhonda Smith
Army 35 Years



Randolph Floyd Willis
Army 10-1/2 Years

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service to Our Country!

Love, Alan & Family

Ret. 1st Sgt. Shon Willis Army 26-1/2 Years
Pictured with daughter Emily, wife Amber, daughter Alyssa, and daugher Brooke

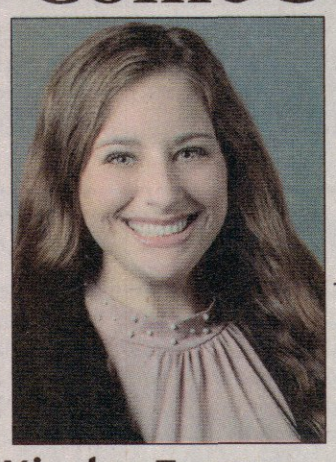
Westside Baptist Church offers Victory Kids Bible Study on Wednesday nights

Westside Baptist Church, 1026 Caroline St., Elba, hosts Victory Kids "Wild About Jesus" on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.

There is a supper at 5:45 p.m. with the Bible Study at 6:30.

Victory Kids explores God's amazing stories from the Bible. Come join and grow in God's Word, build friendships, and learn to live for Jesus.

Come See Me in ELBA!



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ROUND AND ABOUT w/ ERIA'S DAUGHTER

334-282-2200

Scripture: Zechariah 14:9 KJV

Thinking of you! Praying for You.
Dora J. Byrd, Beatrice Belcher, Shane Williams, Helen Thigpen, Mary Sue Dawson, Shambria Samuel, SMBC Family, Donald Byrd, Lydia M. Kelley, Mavis E. Kelley

Birthdays / Anniversary
Issac Watkins 11/24
Aubretta W. Mitchell 11/24
Kanika (KIKI) Belcher 11/26
Cathynette Cross 11/26
Caleb O. Kelley 11/27
Paul/Charlotte Whitehurst 11/27 (W.A)
Willie Mae Whitehurst 11/27
Rev. A.R. Williams 11/27
Audrey W. Bennett 11/27
Winston T. Kelley 11/29

THE UPWARD LOOK
The huge garbage dump for the eleven million people of Metropolitan Manila burns continually. It is aptly named "Smokey Mountain". Several shanty villages exists on this evergrowing refuge site. Children are born there, people die there. Accidents happen there. In short, life continues in the decaying, burning dangerous environs of "smokey mountains". No one calls that an ideal home. Its inhabitats are the poorest of manila's thousands of poor. They are scavengers, seeking anything in the refuse that can be cleaned, repaired, traded, or sold to gain food. Missionaries do work there, and they bring hope where otherwise there would be only despair. One of the women who lives on "smokey mountain" said it well: "We live in a taste of Hell", but I know Jesus. I have Promise of a house in Heaven, and that gives me hope. When the pain and toil overwhelm me, I look up! No, not the sky. I look to Him who is coming on those clouds someday. He is coming for me! I take an upward look in my mind and see all that is good in my Lord. He died for me. Looking at Him who is pure and holy, I know I will be like Him one day. This keeps me going.
"We are not living on"smokey mountain"but there is so much hurting all of our lives that we find relief by thinking of the blessings of Christ.
-- W.P.

Questions/Answer Section
Q/A for the week of 11/20
(Q) When the Church in Jerusalem heard that the gospel was being preached to Grecians as well as Jews in Antioch, they sent whom to check it out?
(A) Barnabas – Acts 11:22
(Q) What two men took the Antioch Church's gift to the famine- stricken Christians in Judea?
(A) Barnabas and Saul – Acts 11:30

Thought to Remember
To deal effectively with unfriendly folk, take them to the Lord in prayer.

Questions for the Week of 11-27-2025
Multiple Choice
(Q) What old testament person did Peter say spoke of Christ's resurrection?
Eli, David or Samuel ?
(Q) What phenomena accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?
A mighty windstorm
A hailstorm
A storm of fire ants
(Q) What did Peter tell his audience on Pentecost to do for the remission of sins?
Take a bath
Join a church
Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

Today is a good day! Be grateful
Eria's Daughter, Sue

ELBA MASONIC LODGE #170

"WHEELS ON THE SQUARE"

CAR, TRUCK, AND BIKE SHOW

Alabama Trophy & Gifts – Level Plains
Alfa Agent Ralston Moore – Elba
Ben E. Keith – New Brockton
Bradshaw Pest Control – Elba
Bryan's Pharmacy – Elba
City of Elba
Cook Chevrolet / Ford – Elba
Crossroads Collision – Jack
Deal's Heating and Cooling – Jack
Dorsey Trailer, Inc – Elba
Dowling Tractor – Enterprise
EDSCO – Elba
Elba Chamber of Commerce – Elba
Elba Florist and Gifts
Elba Public Library
Elba Senior Citizens
Enterprise Rescue
H.T. Hackney – Opp
Hayes Funeral Home – Elba
Hun's Honey – Bluff Springs
Hussey House Movers – Elba
Kustom Kreations Construction – Elba
Lawford Hardware – Elba
Lee Milliner State Farm – Enterprise
LifeSouth Blood Mobile
Lori Collinsworth – Allstate – Andalusia
Moseley Studios – Elba
Ollie's Auto Glass – Elba
O'Reilly Auto Parts – Elba
Paul J. Adams Attorney at Law – Opp
Roadmart – Enterprise
Robert's Convenience Store – New Brockton
Southern Independent Bank – Opp
Sunbelt Rental – Andalusia
Terry Spicer Heating & Cooling – Elba
The Outpost Restaurant – Enterprise
The Ranch House – Elba
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